



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**29 September 2008**  
**Media Release**

**New university places for nurses in Newcastle**

Sharon Grierson MP today welcomed the announcement of funding for 50 new Commonwealth supported higher education nursing places at the University of Newcastle.

The new places commence in 2009 and are part of the Australian Government's 2008-09 Budget Health and Hospitals Reform – Health Workforce initiatives.

"The 50 extra nursing places at Newcastle University will help take the pressure off hospitals all over our region," Ms Grierson said.

"I'm particularly pleased with the increase in the number of places for specialist nurses in mental health – a service which is in high demand in Newcastle."

"Addressing the national nursing shortfall will benefit patients, their families and the local community."

The new places will provide clinical placement opportunities in rural and regional areas, and will give more students the opportunity to qualify as registered nurses.

"The Government is meeting its commitment to increase the number of nurses available to work in our hospitals."

"I'm pleased that we made this announcement today in Newcastle, where the Prime Minister is tonight hosting a Community Cabinet meeting."

**Canberra**  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Ph: 02 6277 4221  
Fax: 02 6277 8461



**Newcastle**  
427 Hunter Street  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
Ph: 02 4926 1555  
Fax: 02 4926 1895  
[www.sharongrierson.com](http://www.sharongrierson.com)